

Appl. No. : 10/676,458
Filed : September 30, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 7-10, and 21-26 are pending in this application. Claims 2-4 and 7-10 have been amended. Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled. Claims 11-20 have been canceled as drawn to a non-elected invention. New Claims 21-26 have been added. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as filed.

Response to Restriction Requirement

A Restriction Requirement has been imposed in this application. In connection therewith, it is asserted that the application claims the following inventions: Claims 1-10, drawn to a method of forming a pot for an array of hollow membranes, classified in class 264, subclass 255 (Group I); and Claims 11-20, drawn to an apparatus for use in potting an array of hollow membranes, classified in class 425, subclass 121 (Group II). Applicants confirm their previous election, without prejudice and without traverse, the invention of Group I, including Claims 1-10, drawn to a method of forming a pot for an array of hollow membranes, and cancel without prejudice Claims 11-20 as drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over US 4,389,363 to Molthop in view of US 6,290,756 to Macheras et al. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled and Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 4, which has been redrafted into independent form. The rejection is therefore moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 5, and 7-10 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 5 depends from allowable Claim 4. Claims 8-10 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 7. New Claims 21-26 recite the subject matter of Claim 1 in combination with the subject matter at page 2, lines 28-29, and page 2, lines 1-3, of the specification as filed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining

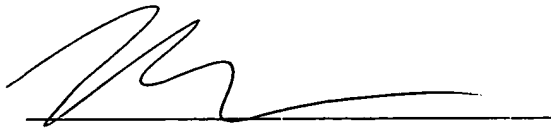
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concerns that might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2/24/05

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AMEND
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